

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS SUMMARY, DECEMBER 4, 1973

1. NYTIMES FRONTPAGE HIGHLIGHTS: NYTIMES LEAD STORY HEADED SENATE GIVES UP ON ELECTION FUND; PASSES DEBT BILL, SAYS THAT BILL AS FINALLY PASSED STRIPS CAMPAIGN FINANCING SECTION FROM MEASURE IN FACE OF FILIBUSTER AND SAYS THAT THIS ACTION A VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT. OTHER FRONTPAGE STORIES ARE HEADED LOVE QUILTS POSTS AFTER A SHAKE-UP IN ENERGY AGENCY; PIONEER TEN PASSES JUPITER WILL LEAVE SOLAR SYSTEM; NIXON, IN REVERSAL, URGES HOUSE TO SPUR TRADE BILL; BEN-GURION BURIAL AT NEGEV KIBBUTZ; WAGE EARNERS UPSET AS INFLATION SAYS INCOME; HOUSE VOTES SPEED LIMIT OF 55 M.P.H. FOR NATION: IT'S 'FILLER UP' AGAIN AS CAR CROWD STATIONS AFTER DROUGHT.

1A. WASHPOST FRONTPAGES ELECTION PLAN BEATEN, DEBT LIMIT RAISED, ARTICLE SAYING UNDER HEAVY WHITE HOUSE PRESSURE THE SENATE YESTERDAY KILLED A CONTROVERSIAL PUBLIC FINANCING PLAN FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND SENT PRESIDENT NIXON AN UNENCUMBERED BILL PROVIDING A DOLS 475.7 BILLION FEDERAL DEBT CEILING THROUGH JUNE 30. POST ALSO HAS JAWORSKI UNCLASSIFIED

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ASKS TAPE ON ITT; PHOTO CAPTION VC HITS OIL, ATTACK ON SHELL OIL AT NHABE, SOUTH VIETNAM; KISSINGER'S VISIT STIRS EGYPT'S HOPES; NIXON ASKS HOUSE TO ACT ON TRADE VILL; DOLS 11 BILLION ASKED FOR ENERGY SEARCH; TWO QUIT ENERGY POSITIONS, LOVE,

DIBONA OUT AS NEW AGENCY IS SET.

1B. NYTIMES STORIES INSIDE HEADED AS FOLLOWS: RAID CUTS SAIGON'S 'GAS' STOCKS BY THIRD; THIRD UN PARLEY ON SEA LAW OPENS; US EXPECTS RESUMPTION OF MIDEAST TROOP TALKS; ARABS SAID TO LINK PEACE TALKS TO ISRAELI PULLBACK; 2ND DAY OF ARTILLERY EXCHANGES REPORTED BY RADIO DAMASCUS; STATE OF NIXON'S HEALTH, A DIMENSION OF WATERGATE AFFAIR CONSTANTLY BEING GAUGED; AMERICANS VISITING SOVIET GAS FIELDS.

1C. WASHPOST INSIDE HAS UNDER AROUND THE NATION SECTION: GM PUTS LAYOFFS AT 137,000; OIL GIANTS SUED IN NEW YORK ANTITRUST ACTION; IN OTHER SECTIONS HOUSE UNIT BACKS ISRAEL AID; HOUSE PASSES 55 M.P.H. LIMIT AS GOAL FOR STATE HIGHWAYS; FUEL POLICY IS SPAWNING SCANDALS; U.S. STUDY WARNS OF FISH DEPLETION; UNDER BUSINESS AND FINANCE HEADLINE ARTICLE STOCK MARKET DROPS AGAIN, ENERGY SHORTAGE DOMINANT; OUTPUT CUT BY CHEMICAL COMPANIES; EEC STUDY FEARS SERIOUS RECESSION, PROLONGED ARAB OIL CUTBACKS CITED.

2. BEN-GURION. NEW YORK TIMES FRONTPAGE STORY BY SMITH HEADED BEN-GURION BURIAL AT NEGEV KIBBUTZ SAYS THAT BEN-GURION BURIED IN SIMPLE CEREMONY IN DESERT WITHOUT EULOGY AND THAT IT WAS ATTENDED BY 300, MOST OF WHOM WERE POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FORMER ASSOCIATES. ALSO REPORTED THAT MR. BEN-GURION PERSONALLY SELECTED THE SITE, AND WAS BURIED NEXT TO HIS WIFE, WHO DIED IN 1968. PRIVATE CEREMONY FOLLOWED PUBLIC ONE HELD EARLIER IN DAY IN FRONT OF KNESSET. REST OF STORY DESCRIBES PUBLIC CEREMONY, ALTHOUGH SMITH MENTIONS FACT THAT US DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY SECRETARY BUTZ AND INCLUDED DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE RUSH AND MAX M. FISHER OF DETROIT. NOTHING ON BEN-GURION IN WASHPOST.

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EM MIDDLE EAST. NYTIMES GWERTZMAN ARTICLE HEADED US EXPECTS RESUMPTION OF MIDEAST TROOP TALKS REPORTS THAT US SAID IT EXPECTED EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO RESUME MILITARY TALKS ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT LATER THIS WEEK, LEADING TO FULL-SCALE PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA ON DECEMBER 18. THIS INFORMATION WAS MADE PUBLIC BY GEORGE VEST. GWERTZMAN ASSESSES ANNOUNCEMENT TO MEAN THAT IT REFLECTS ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO APPEAR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT DIPLOMATIC PROSPECTS DESPITE CONTINUED REPORTS THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA MIGHT REFUSE TO ATTEND PEACE CONFERENCE IF ISRAEL DOES NOT AGREE TO AT LEAST LIMITED WITHDRAWAL OF HER FORCES FROM THEIR CURRENT POSITIONS. ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT KISSINGER WILL RETURN TO MIDEAST ON DECEMBER 13, AND THEN PRO-

CEED TO GENEVA FOR PEACE CONFERENCE. PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO TRY TO WORK OUT IN ADVANCE ACCEPTABLE FORMULAE TO HASTEN NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER WILL ALSO GO TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR TALKS DEALING WITH OIL EMBARGO.

3A. NYTIMES, TANNER ARTICLE, HEADED ARABS SAID TO LINK PEACE TALKS TO ISRAELI PULLBACK REPORTS FROM CAIRO THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA HAD DECIDED TO BOYCOTT PEACE CONFERENCE IF ISRAEL AT THE LEAST DOES NOT CARRY OUT A LIMITED WITHDRAWAL IN SUEZ CITY AREA. SOURCES SAY EGYPT AND SYRIA POSITION HAS ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER ARAB LEADERS.

3B. NYTIMES DE ONIS REPORTS 2D DAY OF ARTILLERY EXCHANGES REPORTED BY RADIO DAMASCUS SAYS THAT SYRIA REPORTS HEAVY ARTILLERY AND TANK FIRE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS IN SECOND DAY OF SERIOUS VIOLATION OF CEASE-FIRE. SYRIA ALSO ANNOUNCED IT WAS UNDECIDED ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROPOSED MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE. WASHPOST ADDS ISRAEL CHARGED NEARLY ALL ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED BY EGYPT HAD SUFFERED TORTURE AND INJURY. CHARGE DENIED BY EGYPT.

3C. WASHPOST, FRONTPAGE REPORT FROM CAIRO, DUFFLORCE REPORTS KISSINGER'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST ENHANCED PROSPECT THAT GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE WILL MEET AS PLANNED DEC. 18. GEN. SILASVUO, GAVE EGYPT'S WAR MINISTER PROPOSALS FOR RESUMING THE MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT TALKS AT KILOMETER 101. SOURCES NOTED THAT KISSINGER WOULD ALSO VISIT SYRIA, SADAT HAVING PERSUADED ASSAD TO RECEIVE HIM. UNCLASSIFIED

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ED. AP ARTICLE HEADED HOUSE UNIT BACKS ISRAEL AID STATES PRESIDENT NIXON'S REQUEST FOR DOLS 2.2 BILLION TO HELP ISRAEL REPLACE MIDDLE EAST WAR LOSSES APPEARS HEADED FOR HOUSE APPROVAL. EFFORT TO CUT REQUEST TO 41.7 BILLION WAS REJECTED YESTERDAY 16 TO 5 BY THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN CLOSE SESSION. WITNESSES IN CLOSED SESSION WERE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE RUSH AND ADM. MOORE. MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE SAID ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS GAVE THEM A FAR STRONGER JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FULL AMOUNT IN CLOSED SESSION THAN IN LAST FRIDAYS OPEN TESTIMONY. (WASHPOST)

4. STATE DEPARTMENT. AP ARTICLE PAGE A-17 HEADED NIXON PICKS CAREER MEN TO FILL 6 ENVOY POSTS, SAYD NIXON TURNED TO EXPERIENCED DIPLOMATS, YESTERDAY ANNOUNCING SIX NOMINEES TO FILL VACANT AMBASSADORSHIPS: HARRY G. BARNES, ROMANIA; FRANCIS E. MELOY, JR., GUATEMALA; HAYWARD ISHAM, HAITI; RALPH J. MCGUIRE, MALI; ANTHONY D. MARSHALL, KENYA; AND JOSEPH JOHN JOVA, MEXICO. (WASHPOST)

4. COMMENT. ENERGY. WASHPOST SAYS POSSIBILITY OF INTERNECINE VIOLENCE IN PERSIAN GULF IS ALTOGETHER SUFFICIENT

REASON FOR US TO REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON OIL FROM THAT PART OF WORLD. REGARDLESS OF EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION IT WOULD BE WANTONLY UNWISE FOR US TO RETURN TO SOURCE OF OIL THAT HAS BECOME EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE AS WELL AS VULNERABLE AND UNCERTAIN. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO IMPORT ANY MORE ARAB OIL, IN THE FUTURE, THAN WE CAN AFFORD TO GET ALONG WITHOUT.

5A. OSTPOLITIK. NYTIMES SAYS IF IT IS TRUE BRANDT HAS PUT ASIDE QUESTION OF HOW IMPASSE WAS SETTLED IN TREATY BETWEEN BONN AND PRAGUE, WEST GERMANY'S PREVIOUS STRONG STAND IS MADE LUDICROUS AND BLOW HAS BEEN DEALT TO WEST BERLIN'S LONG-RUN CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL IN FREEDOM. ALSO EFFECTIVENESS OF FOUR-POWER BERLIN AGREEMENT PUT INTO QUESTION AND STATURE OF BRANDT MATERIALLY DIMINISHED.

5B. WASHPOST. JOSEPH KRAFT, ATTITUDES ON ENERGY, SUGGESTS THAT "THE LOGIC OF THE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT IS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICANS WILL BLAME ISRAEL FOR FUEL SHORTAGES AND FORCE DOWN HER THROAT A CARTHAGINIAN PEACE. BUT SO FAR, AT LEAST, THAT ISN'T THE WAY PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS COUNTRY IS REACTING AT ALL." KRAFT FEELS THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN STATING INSOFAR AS THERE IS BLAME FOR SHORTAGES AND CONFUSION, IT IS BEING PLACED FIRST, ON PRESIDENT NIXON AND NEXT ON THE OIL COMPANIES. HE FURTHER OPINIONATES THAT THERE IS NO PUBLIC DISPOSITION TO SELL OUT SMALL FOREIGN COUNTRIES, NOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WEAKER CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES. A PRESIDENT WHO INSPIRED ANY TRUST COULD EASILY WIN SUPPORT FOR A POLICY OF EQUAL SACRIFICE, AND THE CONTINUED BUREAUCRATIC SPARRING OVER ENERGY IS A SHAMEFUL BETRAYAL OF A GENEROUS PUBLIC.

5C. WASHPOST. LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN TODAY'S POST FROM OTTO OTEPKA REFUTING CHARGES AND ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM IN PAST. AT BOTTOM OF LETTER IS AN EDITOR'S NOTE PROVIDING A SHORT REFERENCE SKETCH IN CONNECTION WITH MR. OTEPKA'S LETTER. THE BASIS OF THIS SKETCH WAS PROVIDED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. KISSINGER

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